



Governor's Office for Children and Families

QUARTER 2

NOVEMBER 2010

Meet Our Staff

Jen Bennecke
Executive Director

Cora Alexander
*System of Care
Coordinator*

Dahlia Bell
Research Analyst

Robert Clark
*Special Projects
Coordinator*

Sarah Dempsey
*Family Violence
Training Specialist*

Heather McDaniel
*Youth Development
Program Coordinator*

Quincie McKibben
Grants Monitor

Frances Milton
Financial Operations

Danielle Ruedt
*Family Violence
Program Coordinator*

Lydell Samples
Finance Director

Susan Smithgall
Budget Officer

Carole Steele
*Prevention Programs
Coordinator*

Christina Taylor
Administrative Assistant

Joe Vignati
*Justice Programs
Coordinator*

Quarterly Newsletter

GOCF and your communities work hard to strengthen Georgia's children and families. So, the intent of this publication is to keep you updated with recent events, new trends and research, and upcoming opportunities that are being provided by GOCF and your communities. We hope that it will be a useful resource for you!

November is Parent Engagement Month!

To find out how you can get involved with your child this month, [click here](#).

Community Highlight

Troup County Named One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People By America's Promise Alliance and ING

Troup County was named one of the nation's *100 best* because of the community's long-term approach to addressing the challenges young people face by engaging them from birth to adulthood. Troup BELL (Building Early Learners for Life) was created as cross-sector collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce, Troup County School System, United Way, local health agencies and education programs, to provide early-learning education for at-risk children and their families. Believing that education is the solution to ending the cycle of poverty, the community created BELL to ensure that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn by providing resources and support during the critical early years of a child's life. Troup BELL was awarded a grant in 2008 from the Governor's Office for Children and Families. This grant supports the System of Care in Troup County along with community support with Early Learning (birth-5 years old) the key focus. Troup BELL's key partners are Parents as Teachers Georgia Network & National Center of St Louis and Troup County Community & the Governor's Office for Children and Families.

The entire 2010 list of *100 Best Communities for Young People* and their accomplishments can be found at www.americaspromise.org/100Best.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Regional System of Care
Trainings

December 7 & 9, 2010

Early Childhood Education
Public Meeting

December 9, 2010

Abstinence Education
Application Due

November 8, 2010

GOCF Advisory Board Members

Judge Steve Teske, *Chair*
Steve Lowe, *Vice Chair*

Susan Allison
Andy Barclay
John Bowden
Gaylyn Cole
Ken Dobbs
Rachel Ewald
Marquis Harris
Brittany Jean
Carole Kaczorowski
Shaquita Ogletree
Linda Parker
Gene Pope
Dan Provence
Kathy Schrader
Michele Smith
Duane Whitley

New Research and Publications

Adolescent Girls in Georgia's Sex Trade August Data Released

Each quarter data is released on the number of girls indentified as being commercially sexually exploited in Georgia. The count for August 2010 indicates another decrease with a total of 353 girls identified. The counts began in 2007 and Georgia has never experienced a decline with two back to back counts. This is encouraging news as the Governor's Office for Children and Families, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force and collaborative partners continue to expand services for victims and raise the awareness of the problem. To view the quarterly data visit www.children.ga.gov and click on the Family Violence tab or [click here](#).

Upcoming White Paper Release by the Governor's Office for Children and Families

GOCF's next white paper will focus on a multi-disciplinary assessment of and approach to runaway and homeless youth that will include a discussion of the connection with the family violence continuum (domestic violence, sexual assault and teen dating violence). This report will be released on the GOCF website in December 2010.

RFP Releases and Funding Updates

Georgia's Title V Abstinence Education Award

On behalf of the state of Georgia, GOCF was recently awarded \$1.8 million in funding under the Title V, Section 510 State Abstinence Grant Program, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau. The purpose of this federal grant is to promote abstinence from sexual activity as the expected outcome for youth. To find out what funding opportunities can be provided for you through this grant, please [click here](#).

Abstinence Education and Youth Development Grant Program Request for Proposals

GOCF recently released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Abstinence Education and Youth Development grant program. The grant program will focus on implementation of abstinence education in an intensive positive youth development framework that is inclusive of the system of care philosophy. For more information and to access the RFP, please [click here](#).

Grant Awards

System of Care: Caring Community Grant Program Awards

The Governor's Office for Children and Families announced fourteen (14) Caring Community Continuation Grant Program Awards on November 2, 2010. The grant awards totaled \$2,828,603 and were given to communities all across Georgia.

- **City of Madison: \$131,850**
- **City of Perry: \$231,818**
- **City of Savannah: \$243,750**
- **Cobb County Community Services Board: \$233,068**
- **Cook County Board of Education: \$217,192**
- **Douglas County Community Services Board: \$162,436**
- **Floyd County Board of Commissioners: \$243,750**
- **Jenkins County Board of Education: \$159,845**
- **Multi-Agency Alliance for Children, Inc.: \$240,000**
- **Murray County Government: \$232,457**
- **Newton County School System: \$199,350**
- **Pickens County Government: \$208,087**
- **Troup County Board of Education: \$162,500**
- **Walton County Board of Education: \$162,500**

Trainings and Conferences

Upcoming trainings hosted by GOCF that are not listed on this newsletter can be found by visiting GOCF's training calendar at <http://gocfweb.com>. Be sure to check them out!

Upcoming Events

Statewide Family Violence Community Engagement Forums

In order to commence the development of a state plan to reduce family violence along with managing for domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers, GOCF conducted six family violence community engagement forums throughout the state during September and October. Forums were held in the judicial districts of Tifton, Savannah, Augusta, Cumming, Atlanta, and Macon. Qualitative data was collected to gauge the landscape of family violence in Georgia. Valuable information was collected regarding effective local approaches, gaps in service, and the framework of a state plan. The forums were attended by domestic violence and sexual assault service providers, law enforcement, judges, attorneys, representatives from state agencies, advocates and community members to name just a few. Meeting records from each forum along with a state report will be on our website at www.children.ga.gov in December 2010.

Regional System of Care Trainings

The Governor's Office for Children and Families is hosting two regional trainings during December 2010. The purpose of these sessions is to provide communities, local agencies, non-profit organizations, and others information regarding the System of Care model prior to the release of the 2011 System of Care Request for Proposal (grant opportunity). The dates and locations of trainings will be December 7, 2010 at the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville, GA, and December 9, 2010 at the UGA-Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton, GA. The trainings are free, however, registration is required as space is limited. A registration link will be posted on the GOCF training calendar soon.

Public Meeting Regarding the Draft Outline of a Comprehensive Plan for the Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

The Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care has drafted an outline of a comprehensive plan that will direct the Council's work for the next three years. The plan presents a vision for how Georgia should support young children and their families; an assessment of how Georgia is currently serving young children and their families; and a plan for getting from where the state is to where it should be. The date and location for this meeting will be December 9, 2010 at the UGA Tifton Conference Center in Tifton, GA from 5:00pm – 6:00pm.

To access a copy of the draft outline for the comprehensive plan, visit their website at www.dec.state.ga.us.

Event Results

2010 Juvenile Justice Forum

The Juvenile Justice forum, sponsored by GOCF, was held September 14 –15, 2010. The Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the Department of Juvenile Justice members attended the forum where juvenile justice issues were discussed face to face. GOCF was represented at this forum by Joe Vignati, the Justice Programs Coordinator for the office, who facilitated several of the discussions. To view articles on this forum released by the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, please visit <http://journalismfor.us> or [click here](#) for article one and [here](#) for article two.

2010 Georgia Truancy and Delinquency Prevention Conference

The 2010 Georgia Truancy and Delinquency Prevention Conference, sponsored by GOCF, was held in October and attended by approximately 150 people from throughout the State. The goals of the conference were to share information regarding promising practices in the field and to encourage collaboration between the various stakeholders (schools, courts, nonprofits, etc). To view articles on this forum released by the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, please visit <http://journalismfor.us> or [click here](#) for article one and [here](#) for article two.